

REMARKS

Originally filed claims 1 – 22 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §101; rejected claims 1 - 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; rejected claims 1 – 11 and 13 - 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated U.S. patent No. 6,236,971 B1 to Stefik et al. (hereinafter referred to as “the Stefik ‘971 patent”); and claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Stefik ‘971 patent.

By this Response and Amendment:

claims 3 and 4 have been amended to recite patentable subject matter;

claims 1 – 5, 7, 13, 15, 18 and 20 have been amended to overcome the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, while Applicant traverses the rejections to claims 6, 8, 9 – 12, 14, 16 – 17, 19 and 21 –22 made under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph;

independent claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 18 have been amended and, as amended, the rejections thereto and the rejections to the claims dependent thereon under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are traversed; and

the rejection to claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and corrections do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1 and 5 can be found in original independent claim 6.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter.

Response

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection. In particular, claim 3 was amended to add the transition phrase: "comprising the steps of;" and to recite the method limitations of: "printing literary work information in digital form," "storing information on a user who utilizes said printing method" and "executing authentication of a user who wants the print processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user." Claim 4 has been amended by similarly adding the transition phrase "comprising the step of" and to recite the method limitation "'providing' upper and lower limit numbers of pages to be printed of said literary work information."

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, stating that the claims omit essential steps or elements.

Response

Independent claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 18 have been amended to recite physical elements in the apparatus claims and to recite process steps in the method claims. As such, Applicants have obviated the rejections to the independent claims in that the independent claims have been amended to include elements that show the relationship between steps (in the case of method claims) or structure (in the case of apparatus claims) in order to achieve the claimed invention.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 7, 15 and 20 have been similarly amended to sufficiently show the relationship between the recited structure or steps to achieve the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections with respect to dependent claims 6, 8, 9 – 12, 14, 16 – 17, 19 and 21 – 22. These claims inherit the above amendments to their respective base claims and any intervening claims, moreover, Applicants submit that in their original conditions, these dependent claims sufficiently show the relationship between the recited structure or steps to achieve the invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 11 and 13 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Stefik '971 reference.

Response

Claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 18 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). As amended, the rejections are traversed. In particular, Applicants amended the independent apparatus claims, claims 1, 5 and 18, to recite some of the limitations of claim 6 – namely, “a user information storing section for storing information on a user who utilizes said printing apparatus” and “an authentication processing section for executing authentication of a user who wants the print processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user.” Likewise, the independent method claims, claims 3 and 13, have been amended to recite the further steps of: “storing information on a user who utilizes said printing method” and “executing authentication of a user who wants the print processing of said literary work information based on said information on said user.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited Stefik '971 patent does not show all of the limitations of the independent claims as amended. For a reference to anticipate an invention, all of the elements of that invention must be present in the reference. The test for anticipation under section 102 is whether each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must also be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The present invention as claimed in claims 1 – 22 is directed toward an accounting printing system, method and computer readable storage medium wherein information on a user who uses the system is saved and wherein authentication of a user is based on this saved information. Amended independent apparatus claims 1 and 5 recite: “a user information storing section for storing information on a user who utilizes [the] printing apparatus; and an authentication processing section for executing authentication of a user.” Amended independent method claims 3 and 13 recite: “storing information on a user who utilizes said printing method in an information storing section; and executing authentication of a user.” Lastly, like amended independent claims 1 and 5, amended independent storage medium claim 18 recites a computer readable storage medium comprising “a user information storing section for storing information on a user who utilizes [the] printing apparatus; and an authentication processing section for executing authentication of a user.”

The Stefik et al. '971 patent discloses a system using “digital tickets.” These digital tickets allow viewing of a particular work a predetermined number of times. The predetermined

number of uses is set at the time the tickets are obtained. *See '917 patent*, col. 4 lines 43 – 49.

After the predetermined number of uses is reached, the digital ticket can no longer be used. *Id.* at col. 4, lines 24 – 26.

This differs from the present invention in that in the present invention, information *about the user* is stored in an information storing section. The information storing section is constantly updated and never rendered useless. The user information is used for user authentication. Contrastingly, the Stefik digital tickets do not contain information about a user, rather the Stefik digital tickets simply contain information about the number of *uses* a particular work has been viewed. Furthermore, after the digital ticket disclosed in the Stefik '971 patent reaches a predetermined value, the digital ticket is rendered useless, whereas the user information stored in the information storing section is not in that way limited.

As such, Applicants assert that the present invention is patentable over the cited Stefik '971 patent in view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 18 as Stefik does not contain all of the limitations thereof. Claims 2, 4, 6 – 7, 14 – 17 and 19 - 22 depend from claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 18; therefore, these claims are amended in view of their dependency and are likewise patentable over the Stefik '971 patent for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Stefik '971 patent.

Response

Applicants incorporate herein by reference the arguments presented above in response to the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Since claim 5 as amended is now patentable over the Stefik '971 patent, claim 12, dependent therefrom, is likewise patentable thereover.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

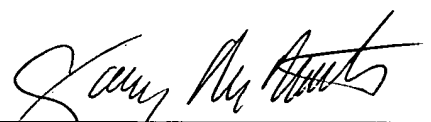
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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